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Use Synonyms to Make Your Writing Vivid

(Bright, Glowing, Vibrant, Colorful, Flamboyant) Student Handout

Activity 1: Find multiple synonyms

Complete each sentence below with a word and three of its synonyms. When you need help, use the Microsoft Student 2008 Thesaurus. For help using the Microsoft Student Thesaurus, read the document How to Find a Word in the Microsoft Student Thesaurus that your teacher has saved to your classroom computer.

Example: The noise in the school cafeteria is loud (deafening, earsplitting, piercing).

A Word of Caution When Using a Thesaurus:

Many (numerous, multiple) English words have more than one meaning, and this can get you into trouble when you use synonyms. For example, carry means to transmit, but it also means to have in stock.

I carry my books in a backpack.

The bookstore carries backpacks of all kinds.

If you randomly pick a synonym without paying attention to the usage of the word that you want to replace, you could make a humorous error.

I stock my books in a backpack. (Huh? Sounds like it came straight out of a thesaurus.)

The bookstore lugs backpacks of all kinds. (It does?)

1. A presidential candidate must be **honest**. (Truthful, Sincere, Candid)
2. Sharee's room is **messy** (**untidy, chaotic, unorganized**)
3. Ben **scurried** (**Dashed, Scampered, Rushed**) through the house.
4. John **hated** the table. (**Loathed, detested, despised**)
5. Bobby walked toward the river **quickly**. (**rapidly, swiftly, hastily**)